

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested in view of this amendment and the following reasons. In response to the Office Action, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more clearly define the present subject matter. Support for the amended features may be found at least in page 7, lines 5-8. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the above amendments introduce no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. For at least these reasons, entry of the present Amendment is therefore respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0184489 applied for by Maruyama *et al.* (“Maruyama”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,338 issued to Mejia *et al.* (“Mejia”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

To establish an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), four factual inquiries must be examined. The four factual inquiries include (a) determining the scope and contents of the prior art; (b) ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue; (c) resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and (d) evaluating evidence of secondary

consideration. *Graham v. John Deere*, 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966). In view of these four factors, the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be made explicit, and should “identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the [prior art] elements” in the manner claimed. *KSR Int’l. Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007). Furthermore, even if the prior art may be combined, there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and the reference or references, when combined, must disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. See *in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Assuming *arguendo* that the references may be combined and a reasonable expectation of success exists, the combined references do not disclose or suggest all of the claim features.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

the magnetic core contains a flexible magnetic body made of *soft magnetic material* (Emphasis added)

Maruyama fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature. In accordance with the presently claimed subject matter, the soft material contained in the magnetic core must be magnetic material. This feature is exemplified by the description in the specification, page 7, lines 5-8 that “[f]or example, a composite magnetic material in which *soft magnetic powder* and organic connecting material are combined as a binder can also be used other than the soft ferrite” (Emphasis added). With regard to this, the Examiner implies that this feature is taught by Maruyama because the “plurality of magnetic ribbons” recited in paragraph [0009], the phrase “made of soft material” recited in paragraph [0013], and the “soft magnetic characteristic” recited

in paragraph [0035] disclose such feature of claim 1 (Office Action, page 3, section 7, lines 7-9).

Applicants respectfully disagree in view of the following reasons.

In paragraph [0009], Maruyama discloses “a core portion laminated by a plurality of magnetic ribbons through a deformable member.” Thus, according to this paragraph teaching, magnetic ribbons are different from a deformable member and there is no teaching that either the magnetic ribbons are made of *soft* material or the deformable member is made of *magnetic* material. Here, it should be appreciated that the magnetic ribbons themselves are not necessarily made of soft material. Therefore, it is clear that this paragraph does not teach or suggest such feature of claim 1.

In paragraph [0013], Maruyama discloses that “the plurality of the magnetic ribbons are made of either amorphous metal or nanocrystalline magnetism.” It is well known that amorphous metal or nanocrystalline magnetism is not necessarily soft material. Thus, it is also clear that this paragraph does not teach or suggest such feature of claim 1.

In paragraph [0035], Maruyama discloses that “these materials [amorphous metal or nanocrystalline magnetism] have a high frequency characteristic and a soft magnetic characteristic.” Applicants respectfully note that, contrary to the Examiner’s mischaracterization, the “soft magnetic characteristic” is directed to a magnetic property of material, as an opposite concept to the “hard magnetic characteristic,” and thus has nothing to do with a mechanical property of the material. In other words, if the material has a soft magnetic property, this does not mean the material is mechanically soft. Thus, it is also clear that this paragraph does not teach or suggest such feature of claim 1.

Furthermore, the secondary reference, Mejia is cited by the Examiner to teach another recited feature of claim 1 and thus also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above-recited claim feature. Because none of Maruyama and Mejia teaches or suggests such claim feature, even if one of ordinary skill in the art happens to combine the references, the combined references still do not disclose all of the claim 1 features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 6, as amended, recites similar feature and thus is allowable over the same combination of the references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 6. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are allowable for at least this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 6, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

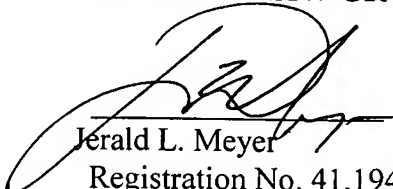
Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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THE NATH LAW GROUP
112 South West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2891
Tel: 703-548-6284
Fax: 703-683-8396

Respectfully submitted,
THE NATH LAW GROUP



Jerald L. Meyer
Registration No. 41,194
Derek Richmond
Registration No. 45,771
Sung Yeop Chung
Ltd. Rec. No. L0449
Customer No. 20529